

Ben Cook

From: Cristy Scoville Starkweather <cscoville@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 5:39 PM
To: Ben Cook
Subject: Education Concerns

Hello,

I'm an Ann Arbor resident and I'm writing a personal email to express my hopes and support for all public education funds. I'm not in favor of providing my child's funds from the State of Michigan to private charters. I am in favor of funding public education for all, whether or not I choose to send my child to the local public school.

Please count my opinion among those who are fighting for increased public education dollars and not in favor of giving more state dollars to public charters...

Thanks,

Cristy (Scoville) Starkweather
460 Larkspur St.
Ann Arbor, MI

Ben Cook

From: Malika Abdul-Basir
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 10:20 AM
To: Ben Cook
Subject: FW: Entering my email into testimony/HB4276

This is for you.

From: John Stears [mailto:proudamerican2@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: Entering my email into testimony/HB4276

Good morning,

I would like to testify in support of House Bill #4276 and would like to offer an example of exactly why from my own school district.

A few years back our local Farm Bureau raised the issue of curriculum not being properly vetted within our local school districts. http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/10/farm_bureau.html

The curriculum coordinator in our district (at a salary of well over \$100,000/year with benefits not incl.) had the following to say when confronted with the offensive material:

From MLive:

John O'Toole, curriculum coordinator for Vicksburg Community Schools, said his district has been using science kits from the Battle Creek Math And Science Center since the early 1990s, **and he relies on them to vet the material.**

"We don't have the resources to do that," he said. **"We're trusting them** that the books have been filtered. ... One reason that we use the Battle Creek kits is because **they're field-tested."**

However, O'Toole added, **it's easy for potentially problematic material to fly under the radar**, particularly if it's in a supplemental reading text where children are not given the book to take home.

Controversy about instructional materials is rare, he said, "because it doesn't get to parents if kids don't talk about it at home. ... Even then, it takes a parent with *political will* to go to the school board" and complain.

Need I explain further?

If mere citizens here in Michigan are having trouble getting rid of curriculum coordinators who don't even feel that "curriculum coordinating" is their responsibility...why in God's name would we want to allow the federal government to step in and do this job FOR THEM with even LESS control over who or what special interest inevitably takes his place? (while he obviously continues to be paid for nothing). Not a single individual in this community PUBLICLY so much as batted an eye when the above "leader" made this statement.

I am convinced that even fewer will stop the federal government curriculum (Common Core) when it unfortunately comes to pass.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
John Stears
5786 E. UV Ave.
Vicksburg, MI. 49097

Ben Cook

From: Malika Abdul-Basir
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:56 AM
To: Ben Cook
Subject: FW: Support of HB 4276

Ben, this was emailed to me by mistake. This is for you.
~Malika

From: Mike Ried [<mailto:mried38@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 6:17 AM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Cc: Rep. Andy Schor (District 68); Rep. Marilyn Lane; Rep. Harold Haugh (District 22); Rep. Ken Yonker; Rep. Rick Outman; Rep. Mike Callton; Rep. Kurt Heise; Rep. Kevin Cotter; Rep. Lisa Lyons
Subject: Support of HB 4276

Dear Malika Abdul-Basir, Education Committee Clerk:
Please enter this testimony on my behalf regarding the Committee Hearing on HB 4276.

You cannot force fit educational standards on students. Every student is different, learns at different rates, learns differently. Do not tell teachers what they already know about teaching. Do not approach education as if it can be stamped out via a cookie cutter.

Standards will not improve graduation rates! Standards will not make student outcomes better. The end-game cannot be created first.

Keep Michigan in control of our sovereign rights to control our standards for education. Do not sell this right to a National Government. If you sell out to a National Government, you will severely limit the State of Michigan's ability to choose what we feel that we should teach our students.

Please stop ALL funding for Common Core's implementation in the Michigan's Department of Education budget.

Please support HB 4276 which states that the State of Michigan curriculum content standards shall not be based on the Common Core Standards described in section 1278C.

Sincerely,
Mike Ried
3640 Trianon Trl
Holt, MI 48842



United States Steel Corporation
1575 Adler Circle
Suite E
Portage, IN 46368
219 841 7469
fax: 219 762 1599

Jill E. Ritchie
Director of Public Policy and
Governmental Affairs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michigan House Committee on Education
FROM: Jill E. Ritchie
DATE: April 24, 2013
SUBJECT: Workforce Information

As you review legislation seeking to alter Michigan's high school graduation requirements, United States Steel Corporation (U. S. Steel) has been asked to provide information on our current and future workforce.

U. S. Steel has not taken a position on any legislation concerning Michigan's graduation requirement.

Workforce talent is vital to the steel industry. U. S. Steel's Great Lakes Works is a fully integrated steel mill located in the cities of Ecorse and River Rouge, Michigan. Currently, Great Lakes Works employs over 2,000 employees. Analysis of Great Lakes Works' workforce reveals alarming trends in the demographics of the workforce. For example, roughly 35% of the union represented "hourly" employees currently have more than 30 years of service. The statistic is even more pronounced for those hourly employees who are in the skilled trades / maintenance ranks with 40% having greater than 30 years of service.

As these employees begin to exit the workforce they leave behind gaps of knowledge, skill and experience. The knowledge gap is most pronounced in maintenance. These positions are critical to our operations and the ones most difficult to fill. Recently, many companies, including U. S. Steel, moved to a "multi-craft" maintenance model. Applicants are required to have broad knowledge of several different maintenance skills (the trend is away from single craft such as welder or pipefitter).

Even with our excellent pay and benefits, we have difficulty finding fully qualified applicants. At Great Lakes Works, in 2012 only about 22% of those who meet the job requirements can pass the written proficiency test to directly enter the maintenance forces and fewer still pass the hands-on assessment.

To minimize operational impact, U. S. Steel undertook a number of initiatives. The Maintenance Training Program offers training to both internal employees and external candidates who possess some degree of maintenance knowledge and aptitude. These Maintenance Trainees work with

fully qualified Maintenance Technicians and attend a structured program to elevate their skills to required levels. The program consists of both classroom and hands-on laboratory courses to learn both theory and practical skills. Satisfactory passing of periodic evaluations and practical exams is required to continue and complete the training, which takes between 12 and 24 months. To identify candidates for these programs Great Lakes Works contacted vocational and trade schools. In addition, classes are available to current employees (free of charge) to provide the knowledge and skills required for entrance into the training program.

While these Maintenance Training programs are effective, they require a significant cost and time investment before the employee is fully productive in the workforce, and the challenge of finding people with sufficient skills to join the company even as a Maintenance Trainee can be daunting. For example, only 56% of external candidates are successful in passing the written proficiency test required to enter the training program.

In order to maintain a healthy manufacturing base in Michigan, companies must be able to hire maintenance forces / skilled trades people (mechanical and electrical). Although we and others have tried to address the need on our own, this solution alone cannot address the shortage.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my consultant Peter Ruddell of Wiener Associates.

Ben Cook

From: kim.germane@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 9:47 AM
To: Ben Cook; LisaLyon@house.mi.gov; Rep. Ray Franz; Rep. Hugh Crawford (District 38); Rep. Kevin Daley (District 82); Rep. Bob Genetski (District 80); Rep. Pete Lund (District 36); Rep. Thomas Hooker; Rep. Brad Jacobsen; Rep. Amanda Price; KevinYonker@house.mi.gov
Subject: Stop Common Core...

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to you in regards to the Common Core curriculum that is trying to make its way into our public schools. After much research, I am disturbed but what I am finding. I urge you and others to **STOP ALL** funding for Common Core, stop funding for all testing related to Common Core (specifically, but not limited to, Smarter Balanced tests), and stop funding for any technology requisite to implementing Common Core. In other words, please **Stop All funding for Common Core's implementation in MI Department of Education budget.** I am also urging you to please support **HB 4276-Stop Common Core in Michigan** introduced by Rep. Tom McMillin. May I remind you that the Republican National Committee at its Spring meeting adopted a resolution opposing Common Core...please **Stop All funding for Common Core!**

Thank you for your time...

Kim Germane, a concerned parent of two